

from theories, the truthfulness of which, all poultry keepers can verify.

One of the first writers on the subject of "sexes of animals at will," M. Thury, Professor in the Academy of Geneva, has, after close observation, formulated a law for stock-raisers, the observance of which, would produce males or females at will. A celebrated stock-raiser, son of the President of the Swiss Agricultural Society, asserts that out of twenty-nine experiments made by himself, without any person's intervention, he had not a single failure; in every case he succeeded in what he was looking for—male or female: he therefore declares real and certain, Professor Thury's law.

The same writer observes that the queen bee lays female eggs at first, and male eggs afterwards; and in answer to an inquiry of ours on this subject, the editor of the *American Bee Journal* says "that those eggs of a queen bee, which are impregnated when passing the mouth of the spermatheca, on their way down the oviduct, produce workers (*undeveloped females*), or queens (fully developed females); and those eggs which pass down the oviduct without receiving impregnation from the spermatheca, produce drones or males, thus confirming the Professor's law; the exception, however, when it does occur, being satisfactorily accounted for by Prof. Von Siebold.

So much then for cattle and bees, but Prof. Thury did not confine his observations to these only, he extended them also to poultry, and states, "that with hens, the first laid eggs give females, the last, male products." Whether or not this theory be correct, we cannot say, but if it be, it is of importance to the poultry breeder to know and to practice it. To be able from eggs to produce pullets, when pullets only are wanted, and the same of cockerels, would materially enhance the interests

of poultry-breeding, or, whether it is as correct as that of the man who could distinguish the sex of an egg by its shape, yet remains to be proven. Emanating, however, as it does from a gentleman of Prof. Thury's standing, and being one of three distinct theories propounded by him on similar subjects, two of which have been practically proved to be correct, more especially that of the queen bee laying female eggs first, and subsequently drones, it is at least worthy of a fair trial.

The limited knowledge which we yet possess of many things in relation to poultry breeding—the influence of the cock; the fecundation of eggs; at what precise period fecundation takes place; the hatching and rearing of chickens in a scientific point of view, leave room at least for conjecture, and we would be glad to see it fully and fairly tested.

Sir John Sebright conceived the idea of producing a diminutive class of fowls, separate from all others of a similar kind, and he succeeded; other classes of bantam fowls have also been produced, such as game bantams, Cochins bantams, &c., but by whom we are not informed—and he would be a bold man who would assert that we have yet attained to the full and complete knowledge of poultry breeding, either in this or any other respect. Equally so in distinguishing the sex of eggs, the subject hitherto has not had that attention given to it which its importance to poultry breeders deserves: and, although we do not think that any theory yet propounded will satisfactorily solve the question of sex, we firmly believe the day is not far distant when it will be proved to a demonstration which egg, before being placed under the hatching hen, will produce cockerels and which pullets. What we want in this and other points in relation to poultry breeding, is a series of experiments, properly commenced and systematically carried